## Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 14, 2007

President George W. Bush The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

We are writing to urge you to ensure that Border Patrol Agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean are released from jail by Christmas. As you know, these agents were convicted by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas for their actions in attempting to apprehend a drug smuggler along the Southwest border, and given harsh sentences.

In June, the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight, held a hearing on this case. It is clear from testimony that the punitive length of these two Agents' sentences is unjustified. As a result of the hearing, the Chairman of the Subcommittee, Representative William Delahunt, has introduced a bipartisan resolution on December 6 to commute the agent's sentences.

In addition, the case is currently on appeal before the Fifth Circuit Court of Texas. According to press reports, the judges on the panel hearing the case have criticized prosecutors over the charge used in this incident. One judge said that prosecutors overreacted and questioned whether the agents would have been prosecuted if they had reported the shooting to their supervisors. Another judge questioned the prosecution's attempts to block the jury from hearing about evidence of another drug trafficking incident involving the same smuggler that occurred after the first incident but before trial. The judges have also raised questions about the prosecution's immunity deal with the drug smuggler.

Taking these recent events into consideration, it is clear that now is the appropriate time to commute the sentences of Ramos and Compean. These Agents and their families deserve your immediate attention.

Sincerely,

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